

Four goals in 14 minutes!

TITLE FORM BY SUPERB WANDERERS

A BLISTERING spell of power from Rothmans Isthmian League champions Wycombe Wanderers, who hammered four goals in just 14 minutes, completely shattered one-time greats Hendon at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. And, for the first time this season, Wycombe looked like championship material.

Blues supporters have had to wait a long time for their team to put their game together consistently this season. There has been some decidedly tedious football at times, notably against Marlow and Walton. But on Tuesday, those games were easily forgotten as Wanderers produced some superb football and at last, turned their excellent attacking moves into goals.

It's also been a long time since Wycombe thrashed Hendon so conclusively, at least five years in fact. The Claremont Road men had no answer to the football on this occasion.

Wycombe's victory also notched up their first £40 bonus for a three-clear-goal win and in doing so, they recorded their first "double" of the season, having beaten Hendon away 2-1 at the end of August.

I suppose it was on the cards that someone would suffer heavily at the hands of the Wanderers sooner or later. The Blues had been creating enough chances regularly all season to have won every match and it was only a matter of time before they got their game together perfectly. Against Hendon, it was vintage Wanderers at their best.

TEAM PERFORMANCE

Every single player gave 100 per cent. The defence was sound, midfield better than ever before this season while the

front men did the job asked of them by hitting the target five times. In essentially a great team performance, Gary Hand, Mick Holifield and Dylan Evans all produced their very best form.

Downey, easily the best official we have seen this season, had no doubts about the decision and Kennedy drove the ball firmly past Smith to open the account.

Only 60 seconds later,

Wycombe Wanderers 5, Hendon 0 Report by STUART EARP

For Hendon, West Indian centre-forward Eddie James deserves special mention. He never stopped trying and looked a highly talented player. Hendon, however, wasted the talents of their England international Rod Haider by playing him upfront instead of midfield.

Wanderers took their time to get going but after the 10th minute when Steve Perrin had a goal disallowed for off-side, it was all one-way traffic. Evans produced one superb run which took him past four defenders and then Howard Kennedy broke from his own penalty area and sparked off another lightning move.

Perrin, Searle and Evans all combined at speed with delightful passes but Dylan's cross was desperately cleared after a goalmouth scramble.

At this stage, it was noticeable Wycombe had a firm grip on midfield. Kennedy and Terry Reardon were using the ball intelligently while Mick Holifield made several of his familiar blind-side runs into the box.

Then, in the 28th minute, Wycombe broke through and began their incredible 14 minute burst which produced the best football of the game and four goals. The first came from the penalty spot. Kennedy's corner was half cleared to Keith Mead who had time to switch the ball onto his left foot and slam in a shot. Goalkeeper Smith failed to gather and the ball fell for Perrin who was obstructed as he was about to tuck it home. Referee

Hendon found themselves two down. A long ball from Hand found Kennedy outside the box and after cleverly beating one player, he crossed on the left foot into the box. Steve Perrin drifted in and thumped home a fine goal first time, right into the corner.

The two goals gave Wycombe real confidence and they began to take their opponents apart with pin-point passing allied to excellent running off the ball. The third goal, in the 38th minute, was an example of how they stretched Hendon's defence beyond its limits. Evans started and finished the move. A splitting ball through the defence, played on the volley by Dylan, found Perrin just on-side. He ran on, drew Smith out of his goal and took three defenders with him. This left Evans completely unmarked and with all the time in the world to control the cross and side-foot home from eight yards. Four minutes later, it was 4-0 with Holifield hammering the most spectacular goal of the night.

A Paul Birdseye throw-in on the bottom wing was back headed first by Searle and then by Perrin. As the ball bounced into the area, Holifield raced in like a train and smacked a cannonball drive past the helpless goalkeeper.

The cheer for the first half's entertainment was the biggest all season and the fans' applause was richly deserved.

To their credit, Hendon never gave up trying and John

Maskell had to be on his toes to keep out a Bobby Southam free kick in the first minute of the new half. John had one or two saves to make in the later stages and handled everything perfectly.

Wycombe, however, still dominated events and soon retaliated to Southam's effort. Using the wings well, with Birdseye always dangerous on the overlap, they pulled Hendon out of position and took advantage of a tired and overworked defence who were desperately square at times. Eight minutes into the second period, they added the fifth goal.

Perrin, who enjoyed one of his best games of the season, won the ball off a defender and crossed into the middle. Evans tried a shot which skidded off the outside of his boot right into the path of Keith Searle. Keith ran on and gave Smith no chance with a crashing drive.

At this rate, double figures looked on the cards, but Hendon fought tenaciously to get back into the game and salvage some of their pride. Maskell saved from Steve Jeffries and later on, James got in a header from point blank range but sent the ball straight at Maskell.

Tony Horseman came on for a run-out in the last few minutes but had little time to get into his stride, although Wanderers finished the match as they had started it — firmly in control. It was just like old times!

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, D. Bullock, G. Hand; H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, M. Holifield; K. Searle, D. Evans (sub. A. Horseman, 82 mins.), S. Perrin.

HENDON: P. Smith; D. Poole, J. Field, B. Stevens, G. Owen; R. Southam (sub. S. Waller, 73 mins.), B. Davies, A. Davies; S. Jeffries, E. James, R. Haider.

Referee: C. Downey (Isleworth).

Half-time: 4-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe — Kennedy pen (28), Perrin (29), Evans (38), Holifield (42), Searle (63).

Official paying attendance: 1,186.
Approximate total attendance: 1,500.